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今日北京

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SPEND YOUR HALLOWEEN WITH
ANCIENT GHOSTS IN THESE
REAL HAUNTED HOUSES **P.6**



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FEATURE STORY



For the last four weeks, many traders in China have been asking the same question: Why did Alibaba go public in New York?

Growing Pains Keep IT Giants Off the Domestic Exchange

BY ZHAO HONGYI & LYNNE WANG

China flagship e-business platform Alibaba became publicly listed on the New York Stock Exchange on September 18. Debuting at a share price of \$92.08, the company's value soared to a record-breaking \$21.8 billion by the day's close.

From the outside, it seems odd that China's largest trading platform and the driving force behind its world class logistics industry would pass up the Shanghai A-share and Hong Kong H-share markets. But like many Chinese IT giants, Alibaba may have had no other choice. Strict regulations on listed companies keep those with foreign backers and complicated structure off the Chinese exchanges.

Problems Everywhere

The China Security Regulation Committee prohibits the public listing of companies that have been registered abroad. But for Alibaba, its Caribbean island papers are only one of many barriers.

During its early years, Alibaba wooed foreign venture capitalists and absorbed money from such firms as Goldman Sachs and Fidelity Investment Group, said Wang Tian'an, an economist at Peking University. Its complicated business structure makes it very difficult to determine what stake these investors hold in the company today.

But companies that hope to be listed on the Chinese markets are required to know such things.

Alibaba's situation reflects a common problem for China's IT industry, and the one that forces many domestic brands abroad. Emerging IT companies like Tuniu, an online travel company, and 58Tongcheng, an online bazaar, are actually foreign-controlled due to



Alibaba launched its IPO on New York Stock Exchange and collected \$21.8 billion on September 19, leading the largest amount of money collect in NYSE history.

the sources of their investment.

"The third obstacle is showing three years of consecutive profits prior to the public listing," Wang said.

Although Alibaba has a number of brands under its flagship, including Alipay, Tmall, Taobao.com, Etiao.com, Alimama, AliEXPRESS, Alibaba Cloud-Computing, Taobao Travel and Xiami, all are profitable.

"In general, we have no way to be sure that Alibaba keeps balanced books on all these divisions, let alone keeping them profitable for three consecutive years," Wang said.

Without domestic investors willing to bootstrap Chinese IT start-ups, companies are forced to take foreign money – which in turn prevents them from winning more domestic investors later.

Advantages Abroad

But even if Alibaba could have been listed on

a Chinese exchange, the decision to list in New York carries fringe benefits.

For its Alipay division, the greatest benefit is convenient money transfers.

"Before its public listing, it was hard for Alibaba to invest efficiently in emerging companies," said Xu Xing, a market observer. "But now Alibaba has the money and can make a number of new investments following its public listing."

"It invested \$50 million in the TV remote start up Peels. It also promised to relocate its affiliate Alipay house in Shanghai, and was optimistic about other Asian e-businesses, including Qiwi, Xoom and Qihoo 360," Xu said.

"The second advantage is the low cost of financing new projects, especially those with the latest technologies," said Wang Jun, an Alibaba watcher.

But the third point is what Alibaba cares about the most: operating under clear laws.

Otherwise, Alibaba could be left waiting for government regulators to drop the hammer at a moment's notice.

"Only in this way can we guarantee the future of Alibaba," Ma Yun said in an interview on Fox Business.

But being listed on the New York exchange has brought other difficulties.

For instance, the commission fee for the public listing was 15 to 20 percent of the total money collected, higher than the 4 to 5 percent at home. The annual maintenance fee for investor relationships was also 6.3 million yuan, much higher than the 250,000 yuan charged in Hong Kong or 50,000 to 100,000 in Shanghai.

Another obstacle is transferring the business culture of a Chinese company to an international company. How to win the confidence of foreign investors and consumers in the international market remains a major challenge for Chinese companies – even ones as big as Alibaba.

"As they learn more about Chinese companies in terms of business models and financial circumstances, foreign investors will become more conservative about Alibaba's business expansion – even though the US capital market is optimistic in this regard," said *China Business Focus*, the native Chinese business magazine.

Many other Chinese IT companies, such as JD, Dangdang, Tuniu are 58tongcheng, are now waiting to go public in the US. They see greater potential in the open capital market than the rigid requirements of Chinese regulators.

Finding a way to shake this hopeless image will be a big problem for Chinese regulators if they want to make it worthwhile for firms to list at home. ■

MUSIC



Photos by Miao Band

Miao Band Worships at the Temple of Music

BY DIAO DIAO

It doesn't take handsome singers and mainstream music to get an audience up and moving. Founded in 2002, Miao Band has been driving audiences wild for nearly a decade.

With its blues-infused brand of minimalist rock, Miao Band has its roots in the moody emotion of grunge.

The "miao" in the band's name means temple, and founder and lead singer Li Qun said he thinks of music as his religion.

Like many indie bands leaders, Li took up playing guitar in middle school. Today he mostly works as a guitar teacher. He cites no specific singer as inspiring him to pursue a career in music – only his desire to bring listeners something impressive.

As the band's core member, Li handles most of the composition. His free-wheeling style and strong emotion shine through in his creations.

"I'm very affected by my emotions whenever I start writing. Sentimentality and passion, either a positive or negative mood, will be present in my music. But no matter the influence, I won't use the song unless it sounds good," he said.

Li said he prefers to compose when he's sad, because sadness is a stronger emotion than happiness and leaves a

stronger mark on the music. Aside from kinship, Li said music is the only touching thing in life.

Xun Feng, one of Li's childhood friends, is the bassist. He said he likes how Miao Band's music is interesting and genuine. While listeners all have different standards for judging music, Xun focuses on whether it conveys a spirit of love, passion and perseverance.

Liu Ning, the band's second guitarist, began playing guitar when he was 15 years old. Liu draws his inspiration from grunge and industrial rock of the 1990s and artists such as Nirvana, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Marilyn Manson and AC/DC.

The band's temporary drum player is Xiao Guang. As a part-time member who has been with the band for only one year, Xiao Guang said the best thing is how the other members of Miao Band are all willing to share their ideas about life and music with each other.

Miao Band has played in shows all over the country, including a stage cooperation with A-list actress Zhou Xun. The band already has 18 songs and is planning to write a few more before recording its first album. It will begin performing again in November. ■

"The happiest thing is to finish the performance and then go out drinking with all our members. That feels great!"



Miao Band in 2010

LIVE SHOW ROUNDUP

Beijing boasts one of the world's most vibrant indie music scenes. Support our local artists with a trip to one of this week's live performances!

Rolling Bowling @DDC Club

Rolling Bowling was formed by former members of the Beijing rockabilly band Defy. The band has combined elements of psychobilly, punk and other styles with their passionate stage performance. Their sound taps the nostalgic guitars of the past to drag classic rock into the 2010s.

October 25, 9-11:30 pm
14 Shanlao Hutong, Dongcheng
60 yuan

Hanggai @Mako Live

During the last decade, Hanggai has risen to become one of the foremost representatives of Chinese indie music. The band's Mongolian instruments and grasslands style have won fans all over the world.

October 25, 8:30-10:30 pm
36 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang District
120 yuan

Nasty Ray @Yugongyishan

In the game of hip-hop, Nasty Ray paid his dues representing Beijing's underground scene. His love for urban music started at a young age and left no stone unturned. Ray's unique rap style saw him through a plethora of freestyle battles that brought him respect from young fans. Ray's hard work has won him a place as the supporting act of international touring artist such as Wu-Tang Clan's Ghost face Killah, Das EFX, Kero One, Supernatural, Madlib and Jurassic 5's Akil the MC.

October 24, 10-11:30 pm
3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng
80 yuan



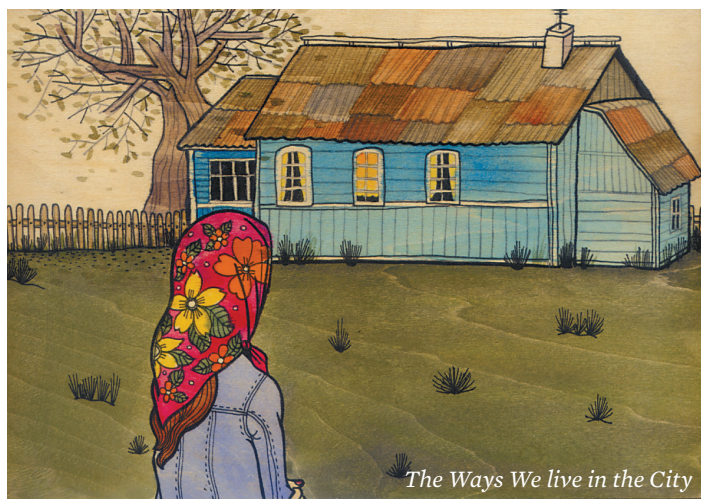
Love 'n' Punk @XP Club

XP Club will hold a punk party on October 24. The line includes Shaojiujuntuan, a hard punk band; The Diders, a simple, wild and impressive punk band; Chinese Modern Shop, a modern punk band; Free Sex Shop, the only all-girl punk band; and Day Dreams, founded by a group of judoka and boxers.

October 24, 9-11:30 pm
Southwest of the Di'anmen intersection, Xicheng
40 yuan (30 yuan for students)



ARTISTS



The Ways We live in the City



Photos by Di Pian

Finding Art in Isolation

BY LYNNE WANG

One of the latest cartoons circulating on Chinese websites is Xihe's Box, the first illustrated series to tackle the topic of autism.

The collection is the work of Di Pian, an emerging artist from the 1980s generation.

"My art is a metaphor for the general feelings of loneliness that are common among 'normal' people," Di said. "We often have to wear masks when interacting with the majority. We doubt ourselves and fear rejection, becoming lost and isolated."

In the series, Di enters the quiet and lonely world of an autistic child and invites viewers to understand the desire to communicate and be understood. Xihe's Box is based on the true story of a father with an autistic child and shows off the sentimental side of Di's worldview.

Born in 1983 in Guangzhou, Di was an introverted and shy child. A sensitive heart and wild imagination made her unwilling to accept recognition from both parents and classmates. With limited social interaction, Di struggled to find ways to express herself.

The depressing experience continued through high school until she discovered a picture book by Ouyang Yingji, a Hong Kong cartoonist known for minimalism.

"The book opened a window for me. Suddenly I knew simple lines were a language I could use to release anxiety even when no one would listen," Di said. "Even today, I use



Mushroom Girls

painting as a diary to record my daily life and everyday experiences."

The autobiographical nature of Di's work is easy to spot in her paintings. The girl in a red princess dress with confused and smoky eyes appears to be a self-portrait.

Her 2006 collection My Depression and 2007 collection The Kids Are Dancing in the Box show a strong personal style. Accompanied by imaginative images of roosters, high heels and flying sausages, the girl stares at readers with a cold face and strange posture. The heavy black lines and red and pink colors give the picture a strong visual impact.

Di became a college teacher after grad-

uating from the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts in 2006 with a degree in Display Design. Although she dreamed of breaking away from the rigid education style of Chinese art schools, a combination of limited energy and perfectionism always left her miserable.

"I wanted to teach students in accordance with their aptitude, but finding a balance between teaching and creation left me tired and stressed," Di said.

After resigning from her position in 2009, Di's paintings have gradually become more soft and gentle. Instead of combining her own childhood memory and fantasy, Di has been creating third-person narratives.

In The Ways We Live in the City, light colors are used to depict daily scenarios in the bathroom and on the street. Although people in the pictures have angular and exaggerated faces, they do not appear out of place in her romantic and urban backgrounds. A girl who likes deer, a transvestite who loses his wife and an ordinary man with flower tattoos compromise the main themes.

"Life is an endless series of dramas – seemingly normal but actually absurd. We do the same things, accept the same information and obey similar rules day after day. The city is increasingly busy and crowded, but people's minds are increasingly isolated," Di said.

"Di uses the experience of sadness, depression and pressure to lift society's veil of fakeness and ignorance," said by Chen Yukun, a journalist at Xinkuai News. But beyond that aggression, "it is also her hope that people can find a warm and sincere way to communicate."

Di denies the social influence on her work. For her, painting is only a way to express emotion rather than seek attention or comment on society at large.

Apart from her identity as an indie artist, Di is also an actress, writer and poet. "All of them are channels for expression, but the communication between myself and my viewers or readers is something personal. It doesn't matter whether or not everyone can resonate with my feelings," Di said. ■

✉ 邸翩 (weibo.com/imddpp)



CINEMA



Ghost Stories

Qian Nüyouhun in 1987

Bridging Love Between Man and Ghost on TV

BY DIAO DIAO

Although seen as a superstition in modern times, ghosts have a long and important tradition in Chinese culture. Many of China's most famous literary works, such as Pu Songling's *Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio*, build on this folk foundation.

Pu's collection of 491 novellas and short stories describes encounters between ghosts and humans.

After failing to pass the imperial exams, Pu turned his attention to criticizing the weaknesses of China's exam system and conservative society. Set against the dark backdrop of bad government, the stories were easy to follow and widely popular.

Pu also wrote a number of love stories that broached the idea of free marriage. He spent more than 30 years teaching in a remote area while collecting ideas for his compilation. He also spent a year living in southern China, where beautiful scenery and encounters with people from different social classes – especially high-class prostitutes – helped him develop many of his characters.

The theme of most of the stories in *Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio* is the love between humans and mysterious female ghosts and creatures.

The concept has proved popular with film producers, and the tales contained in Pu's book have been adapted into numerous TV series and movies. Among the most famous is *Qian Nüyouhun*, often translated as *A Chinese Ghost Story*.

When the beautiful Nie Xiaoqian died at

the age of 18, she was forced by the Jinhua monster "Laolao" to seduce and kill men living near the Lanruo Temple. One night, her supernatural work is befuddled by an unusual man who refuses her even when she tries to captivate him with both money and beauty. The man is Ning Caichen, a young scholar on his way to take the imperial exams.

Enamored by his dedication, Xiaoqian tells Ning about her life and asks him to take her home – even as a servant.

Ning feels sorry for her and agrees to take her home. At first, Xiaoqian terrifies his mother, but the longer Xiaoqian stays among humans the more human-like she becomes.

Three years later, Xiaoqian turns completely into a human and is accepted by Ning's mother and the monster Laolao is killed by Ning's friend Yan Chixia, a swordsman.

Two popular TV adaptations of the story were filmed in 1987 and 2011. The older version stars Leslie Cheung as Ning Caichen and Joey Wang as Nie Xiaoqian. The more recent one stars Liu Yifei as Nie Xiaoqian, Yu Shaoqun as Ning Caichen and Louis Koo as Yan Chixia.

The 1987 edition has long been considered a classic of Chinese television, and Cheung and Wang's performance is considered the best. Although the show's sets and effects have not aged well, the emotional acting makes the classic one of China's most popular ghost-themed TV dramas.

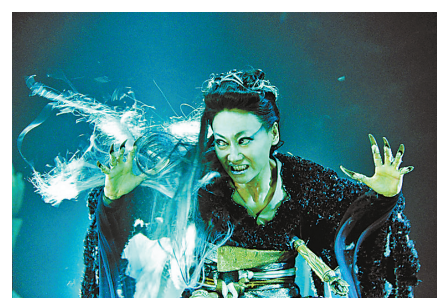
The more recent version, titled *A Chinese Fairy Tale*, features better make-up and special effects as well as newly added plot points. ■



Nie Xiaoqian as played by Joey Wang



Ning Caichen as played by Leslie Cheung



Laolao in the new Qian Nüyouhun



The new Qian Nüyouhun

For more spooky Halloween viewing, check out these other Chinese ghost movies.



Midnight Hair

Released earlier this year, *Midnight Hair* tells the story of a new couple spending their honeymoon in a large, haunted house where they encounter a female ghost with yellow eyes and a red comb. The truth becomes clear only as more and more wicked things happen.



Death is Here 3

The movie is scary not only because of its gruesome imagery but also its story. According to tradition, people can summon ghosts and ask them whatever they want – but they must see the ghost off or something terrible will happen. Gao Mo is a high school student who can see weird things that others can't. On a trip with her classmates, the group decides to summon a ghost but forgets to see it off.



Happy Ghost series

For something a little lighter, there is the *Happy Ghost* series from the 1990s. This five-episode series has lots of funny supernatural happenings. Each episode is an independent story that stars many actors and actresses who went on to become famous stars such as Maggie Cheung and May Cheung.

A LOCAL OUTINGS



Photo provided by tszyk@bucea.edu.cn

Real Scares Beijing's Haunted Houses

BY LYNNE WANG

If you haven't made any plans for your Halloween night, consider a trip to one of Beijing's haunted houses.

Not to be confused with the spooky amusement destinations that pop up throughout the US and Canada at this time of the year, these haunted houses are the sites of ancient murders and suicides.

Tales of wandering spirits, unusual sounds and paranormal activity have persisted for more than a decade at some of the locations.

Chaonei No. 81

Located on a crowded street in the heart of the city, Chaonei No. 81 is Beijing's best known haunted house. Its recent fame comes from being the inspiration for *Jingcheng No. 81*, a 3-D thriller.

Creepy stories associated with the house make it one of the most popular destinations for Chinese thrill seekers.

Constructed in late Qing Dynasty, the Baroque mansion was the private residence of a French railroad manager. During the Republican period the building was sold to a Kuomintang official who lived there with his mistress.

When the Kuomintang government fell in 1949, the man fled to Taiwan and left the woman behind. The abandoned woman quickly lost her mind and decided to hang herself in the luxurious home rather than face life alone in New China.

Despite its shabby state, Chaonei No. 81 hasn't been incorporated into demolition or reconstruction plans and is currently in a state of disuse.

- 81 Chaoyangmen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng
- 🚇 Take subway Lines 2 or 6 to Chaoyangmen Station. Follow Exit H.

Huguang Guild Hall

Built during the reign of the Jiaqing Emperor of the Qing Dynasty, Huguang Guild Hall was intended to be a reunion hall for businessmen and ministers from the provinces of Hunan and Hubei.

There are two horrible stories associated with the hall.

According to one version, the hall was the former residence of Zhang Juzheng, a famous reformer during the Ming Dynasty. After Zhang's death, political opponents murdered his entire family. The only survivor was his 80-year-old mother.

Another version of the story claims that Huguang Guild Hall was built on an abandoned graveyard, causing many ferocious and angry ghosts to torment its inhabitants. People who lived nearby said they often heard cries and cursing from outside their home, but when they opened their doors there would be no one present.

The Huguang Guild is a spacious imperial-style courtyard. It has exquisite

doors with carved tiles, fabulous gardens and an old theatrical stage sure to attract both history buffs and ghost seekers.

- 3 Hufang Lu, Luomashi Dajie, Xicheng
- 🚇 Take Subway Line 2 to Hepingmen Station. Follow Exit B. Transfer to Buses 7, 14 or 70 and get off at Hufanglukounan.

Prince Li Mansion

Covering about 30 hectares, the Prince Li Mansion has largest number of rooms among prince mansions in the Forbidden City. As a symbol of authority and power, a natural sense of mystery and fairness let citizens to make many lurid tales.

A sad love story associated with the mansion is one of the most famous. After studying abroad in France, Princess Lanxin, the daughter of Prince Li, fell in love with the no-name actor Feng Yuecong. But the romance fell apart when Feng's friend snitched on their secret relationship. As a result, Feng was poisoned and sent to prison.

After being discharged from the prison, Feng learned danxian, a single-string fiddle, and played outside the mansion. After the death of Feng and Lanxi, they failed to meet either once more. Legend says the ghost of the man became a strong wind that has haunted the Prince Li Mansion ever since.



Chaonei No. 81

CFP PHOTOS



Huguang



Prince Li Mansion

- 9 Xichenggen Nan Jie, Xicheng
- 🚇 Take Subway Line 2 to Xuanwumen Station. Transfer to Subway Line 4 and get off at Lingjing Hutong. Follow Exit D.

Xiaoshihu Hutong No. 33

Built in 1779, Xiaoshihu Hutong No. 33 was the property of Aisin-Gioro Miande, the grandson of the Qianlong Emperor.

According to the description of Ji Xiaolan, a famous writer and administrator, said the house has a long history and it is "quite normal" to encounter ghosts within.

The accounts of its neighbors seem to support Ji's words. Many have reported hearing the voice of a woman reading poetry or playing the guzheng.

At one time, Xiaoshihu Hutong No. 33 was adapted into an academy where civil officials would gather to compile books and share their expertise. One of the occupants was Cao Xueqin, who lived for several years while completing the rough draft of his *Dream of the Red Chamber*.

- 9 Xihuangchenggen Nan Jie, Xicheng
- 🚇 Take the Subway Lines 1 or 4 to Xidan. Follow Exit B.

Q CLASSIFIEDS

PARTY



Halloween Thrill Party

Ready for some spooky fun? Get your costumes ready for ghoulish holiday fun at the Halloween Thrill Party in Blue Stream Bar.

The party will have haunted castles, a mysterious hell, touchable ghouls, bloody vampire bats and witches with magic brooms. Just don't get too frightened!

Come as a goblin, a devil, a spectre, a hag or even Kamen Rider if you wish.

The layout of the party's horror room is sure to be amazing, and this year's scares make use of many of the latest 3-D technologies.

Expect plenty of thrilling music while you dance your scares away!

- ⌚ 8:30-11:30, October 31
- 📍 183 Jiugulou Dajie, Xicheng
- 💰 120 yuan (100 yuan presale)
- 🌐 yeguanjia.com/party/170.html

MUSIC



I Rap, You Listen!

I Rap, You Listen is a hip-hop tour kicking off its first show in Beijing, China. Performers include both Chinese and foreign musicians. Headlining the concert are Jackson Turner, A-Mac and the Easy Boyz.

Jackson Turner, aka Heretic, is a hip-hop emcee from New York City. In 2013, he released his solo album *Long Time Coming* with producers Soulspeak, Jay-Dub and TB-Ray. The album focused on Jackson's experiences growing up in New York.

Jackson has since released three music videos for this album, each receiving more than 10,000 views. He is currently working on an EP titled *The Foundation* that is scheduled for release later this year.

- ⌚ 9 pm-midnight, October 24
- 📍 DDC (Dusk Dawn Club), 14 Laoshan-Hutong, Dongcheng
- 💰 70 yuan (50 yuan presale)
- ☎ 18611730692
- ✉ WTF@gmail.com

COMMUNITY



Pilates Sessions

PetiaBotcheva is certified in The Pilates Method by the Physical Mind Institute in New York. She trained under the guidance of Master Teacher and Celebrity Trainer Maria Leone, owner of Body Line Fitness in Beverly Hills.

This exercise system strengthens the "powerhouse," defined as the abdomen, back and buttocks, to stabilize the body and enable it to move freely. It dramatically and rapidly improves strength, flexibility, posture and overall alignment of the musculature and skeleton without increasing bulk.

Pilates is an indispensable tool for athletes and unconditioned people alike enabling them to develop coordination, aesthetic form, strength and balanced posture.

- ⌚ 5:30-6:30 pm, October 12 and 26
- 📍 Kocoon, B1, The Opposite House, Sanlitun Village North, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang
- 💰 180 yuan (one session), 1,500 yuan (10 sessions)
- ☎ (010) 6410 5016
- 🌐 kocoonspalounge.com



'Scratch Night' of Experimentation

Beijing artists are coming to Modernista for an experimental crossover performance by local artists.

"Scratch Night" is a popular theater activity in the UK that gives artists the chance to test their work in front of a live audience. The evening usually takes on a rough and ready approach with a few short plays by different artists all shown in one night.

Scratching Beijing allows local artists, musicians, writers and directors to come together and "scratch" beneath the surface.

- 📍 Modernista, 44 Baochao Hutong, Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng
- ⌚ 9:30 pm-12:30 am, October 27
- ☎ 13691425744
- ✉ modernistabj@yahoo.com



Culture Khan Kon 2014: Beijing

Ready your dice and pack the cards! Khan Kon, the premier gaming convention in China, is back for more fun.

From board games to world-class RPGs, this year's attendees can look forward to the addition of game industry panels, workshops on narrative design, game session management, Magic the Gathering tournaments, Khan Kon exclusive prizes and war game miniatures. RPG game sessions will include options for Dungeons and Dragons Next, Trail of Cthulhu, Vampire the Masquerade and the Khan Kon-only Pathfinder content!

Come try new games, learn more about the game making process from industry professionals and meet fellow gamers in your area.

- 📍 Beijing Starmoon Hotel, 9 Jiuxianqiao Nan Lu, Chaoyang
- ⌚ 10 am-6 pm, October 25 and 26
- 💰 P75 yuan for single day, 120 yuan for two-day membership
- ☎ (010) 6432 9341/1041
- ✉ contact@khankon.com

DINING



Jack-o-Lantern Carving Contest

Select a pumpkin and decorate or carve it while pumpkins last. The creations will be displayed and lit up as jack-o-lanterns for The Schoolhouse's Saturday evening dining session and judged by its team.

Prizes will be awarded in three categories: children 12 and younger, teens and adults 18 and older.

The winning child will receive a certificate for a free Birthday Party at The Schoolhouse for up to 12 kids with hamburgers, fries and a birthday. The winning teen will receive a certificate for a free sleepover at Schoolhouse Home with popcorn, soda and breakfast. The winning adult will receive a certificate for a week-

end getaway for two including a Saturday night in a Superior Room at the Brickyard and credit for 500 yuan in food and beverages at The Schoolhouse.

The Schoolhouse will keep the pumpkins for display. Only registered entrants will be eligible for prizes. Registration means The Schoolhouse may announce winners' names and show their creations in its marketing materials.

- 📍 The Schoolhouse at Mutianyu, Mutianyu Village, Huairou
- ⌚ 2-4 pm, October 25
- 💰 500 yuan
- ☎ (010) 6162 6506
- ✉ info@theschoolhouseatmutianyu.com
- 🌐 theschoolhouseatmutianyu.com



White Truffles from Alba in Italy

Italian white truffles are highly sought after for their natural growing conditions. This mysterious delicacy has a pale cream or brown color with white marbling that is bursting with aromas of the forest: oak seeds, roots and other elusive fragrances.

Enjoy a five-course set menu designed by the award-winning Chef Davide from Italy, who highlights this luxury with a romantic Italian touch.

Signature dishes include Jerusalem artichoke soup with white truffle, comfit pork belly and olive oil; Parmesan risotto white truffle, braised beef cheek and rosemary; and Australian veal white truffle with caramelized shallots and beetroot.

All dishes are meticulously prepared to ensure a perfect combination of the flavors and aromas of the white truffle.

- 📍 Cepe, The Ritz-Carlton Financial Street, 1 Jinchengfang Dong Jie, Jincheng Jie, Xicheng
- ⌚ 11:30 am-9:30 pm, in November
- ☎ (010) 6601 6666

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- 📠 (010) 6590 2525
- ✉ ads@beijingtoday.com.cn

KOREAN FOOD



Photos by CFP & Nipic.com



Fall in Love with Korean Cuisine

BY DIAO DIAO

After a brief dip in the late '00s, the Korean wave appears to be back. While most girls are crushing over their favorite Korean *oppa*, others are more interested in the colorful foods that appear in their favorite soaps.

Korean food is typically light, without oils or strong flavors. Foods are typically classified into five tastes and colors: sweet, sour, bitter, spicy and salty, or red, white, black, green and yellow.

Nowhere are these classifications more obvious than in bibimbap, Korean miso soup and spicy *niangao*. Korean food is also famous for its roast beef and noodles. The main idea in Korean cooking is to match the meat and vegetables and to ensure appropriate portion sizes for each dish.

Bibimbap

Bibimbap is one of the Korea's most popular culinary ambassadors.

The rice dish makes use of five tastes and five colors that are believed to help the body's organs. Spinach, celery, squash, cucumbers and ginkgoes boost the liver; the beef, pepper sauce and carrots are good for the heart; the bean jelly, yolks, walnut and pine nuts are good for spleen; the radishes, bean sprout and egg whites are good for the lungs; while the kikyuu, kelp and mushrooms are good for the kidneys.

Ingredients are combined and roasted in a small stone or ceramic bowl. The rice sits on the bottom with the colorful and healthy vegetables piled up above it. Bowls are cooked directly on a fire to heat the rice as much as possible, leaving a small, burned layer on the bottom.

Bibimbap is a symbol of love in Korea. When couples eat out and order bibimbap, the boy usually stirs the rice and vegetables for the girl. He's also expected to finish whatever she can't eat.

Korean Miso Soup

Miso soup appears on Korean tables almost as often as kimchi. The bean sauce it uses contains phytoestrogens that help to prevent breast cancer and slow the growth of tumors.

Miso soup has a long history and it's regarded as a national food. It made of bean sprouts, needle mushrooms, Korean pepper sauce, squash, potatoes, beef, garlic, green peppers, onions, Korean miso, tofu and rice water.

It may smell strange at first but once you taste it you are sure to fall in love. ■

MAKE YOUR OWN WITH THIS RECIPE

Make Your Own Kimchi

BY DIAO DIAO



Photo by nipic.com

Ingredients:

- ☐ 1,200g cabbage
- ☐ 1 apple
- ☐ 1 pear
- ☐ 150g pepper sauce
- ☐ 50g glutinous rice flour
- ☐ salt
- ☐ garlic
- ☐ ginger

Beijingers love their *xiancai*, a kind of salty pickled radish, that's eaten with bland foods and porridge.

Korea's kimchi is quite similar. The pickled cabbage appears on the table at almost every meal, and families make their own stock of kimchi each winter.

You can make your own with this easy recipe.

Instructions:

1. Remove the heart of the cabbage and cut it into big slices.
2. Put the cabbage in a basin and port salt over it evenly. The amount of salt depends on personal taste. The less salt you use, the more time it will take to soften. You will begin the pickling process when the cabbage goes soft.
3. Peel the apple and pear and juice them. Mince the ginger and garlic.
4. Add the glutinous rice powder to your pot. Add the two glasses of juice and boil over a medium flame.
5. When the paste cools, add the spicy sauce, minced ginger and garlic. Stir.
6. Remove the water from the cabbage and roll each leaf in the spicy paste.
7. Put all the cabbage into a pot without any oil or water and leave it to ferment in the refrigerator for three to five days.

Haidian's Top Stop for Bibimbap

BY DIAO DIAO

Qiballengmian is a Korean restaurant in Haidian District that's popular with office workers looking for a taste of Seoul. The waiters are nice and the service is excellent no matter how busy it is.

The restaurant is crowded at lunch and dinner. The good service and clean dining environment attract many frequent customers to order the bibimbap, miso soup and cold noodles.

Korean cold noodles are a very traditional food. The noodles are dark grey and made of chewy, low-calorie buckwheat flour. The soup is made of beef or chicken stock with kimchi, beef, half-cooked eggs, cucumbers and shredded pear. Unlike Chinese noodles that taste hot and salty, Korean cold noodles taste sweet and sour.

As well as traditional bibimbap, Qiballengmian also serves sleeve-fish bibimbap. At 15 yuan, its one of the best and most reasonably priced bowls of bibimbap in the area.

Qiballengmian also serves kabobs and cold dishes. Sweet and sour cucumber and shredded tofu with Korean pepper sauce are both popular. Takeaway service is available.

Group purchases available online can drag the price even lower: a full meal for two can cost about 50 yuan.

The restaurant often gives away free trial meals to collect customer feedback. Most say the dishes are extremely similar to food they had in Korea. ■



Bibimbap



Photos by dianping.com Korean cold noodles

Qiballengmian

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